

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

33

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Deer Creek Friends Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One quarter mile south of U.S. Route 1
in Darlington

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ENTERTAINMENT

☒ RELIGIOUS

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___MILITARY

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Chester P. Holloway, Jr., Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Troyer Road

CITY, TOWN

White Hall

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

HA-12

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Deer Creek Friends Meeting house is located on the west side of Maryland Route 161, south of its intersection with U.S. Route 1 in Darlington, Harford County, Maryland. It is a one-story fieldstone structure six bays long on the south, four bays on the north, and three bays wide. It has a gable roof covered with slate shingles. The building was constructed in 1784 to replace a building of 1737 and renovated in 1888. A one-story, frame addition containing kitchen and bathrooms was built on the west end several years ago.

The six bays of the south facade contain 6/6 sash windows at each end, double doors in the next bays in, and two 6/6 windows in the center. The windows have paneled shutters and a stone lintel above wooden surrounds. Each leaf of the double doors has two panels, and the knobs and escutcheons are of raised pattern cast metal and were installed in 1888. A stone step leads up to the stone sill of each door; these also have stone lintels.

The east end has a double door flanked by two windows; these are identical to the doors and windows on the south facade. Above the door lintel is a datestone which reads: Founded 1737; Rebuilt 1784; Restored by Hugh J. Jewett 1888.

The north facade has four small 2/2, double-hung sash windows. Set high in the wall as on the inside the raised elders' benches are below them. They are spaced two in the center and one at each end so that on the interior they are situated at opposite ends of the rear wall of each room.

Two Victorian period chimneys rise from the lower corners of the south slope of the roof. The west one services a fireplace added in 1888; the east one is decorative.

The west end is covered by the 20th century frame addition, but a double door and flanking windows identical to those at the east end are still visible inside. The addition is a one bay long by three bays deep structure with gable roof lower than the house. It is also not as deep as the house, but has a shed-roofed porch across the south that brings it to the full depth of the meeting house. It is a compatible addition that does not affect the structure of the meeting house and is screened by shrubs and trees.

The interior of the meeting house is divided into two spaces by an original paneled partition. The paneling is divided into three horizontal rooms; the middle one slides down to open the rooms to each other. The rooms, the east for men and the west for women, are also connected by a double door in the center of the partition. The latch to this door is held in place with rose head nails.

The benches on each side are also original to the 1784 structure. There are two risers containing the elders benches facing the congregation in each room. Most of these benches are fixed. There are ten benches in each room, with an aisle down the center, these are not fixed.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Deer Creek Friends Meeting house
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Most other features of the interior date from the 1888 renovation. The ceiling is narrow boards, as are the window reveals. Narrow board wainscoting was also installed, and the pine floor dates from this time. The window and door trim and the doors inside are varnished. (The partition is painted and the benches left untouched. The 1888 fireplace is a corner one in the southwest corner of the women's side. The mantel has a "Tudor" or four-centered arched fascia, simple shelf, and plain pilasters.

Also on the property is a five-stall horse shed. The stalls are formed by heavy hand-hewn beams which also support the roof. The rafters are round logs. The walls are sheathed with wide vertical planks, and the shed has a new shingle roof. The open side faces east into the yard in front of the meeting house. The shed appears to date from the same time as the house.

A cemetery is located to the north of (behind) the meeting house. The earliest marker in it is a slate one reading Sarah Ely 1775. Burials in the cemetery ended in 1930. It probably dates from the meeting house before this one, which was located across the road, as Sarah Ely's death predates the current structure, and early Friends did not mark their graves.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1784, 1988

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Deer Creek Friends Meeting house is a typical structure of its type in form, with an interesting combination of late 18th century and Victorian details. The house is similar to the West Nottingham and Colora meeting houses across the Susquehanna River in Cecil County. All three are of similar size and shape, with two entrance doors in the main facade and the interior space divided in half by sliding partitions. The two meeting houses in Cecil County are noted for their lack of alteration. Deer Creek is different in that many changes in detail were made to its interior in 1888 by a member of the Meeting who was able to afford the work. These changes were and are controversial, as they basically added stylish features to a plain building reflective of the simplicity of the Quaker faith. This is the only meeting house in Maryland that has such later style-conscious alterations.

The Meeting itself is a very old one, the second in Harford County, founded in 1734, and is still an active Meeting today.

The horse shed on the property is a very early one, possibly dating from the construction of the meeting house in 1784. Such sheds at other meeting houses and churches in Maryland have not survived. The graveyard here contains several early Quaker headstones of slate.

HISTORY

In 1701 William Penn, in order to secure his boundaries against Lord Baltimore, opened a section of his province "far back in the wilderness" to Friends. The area was called the Nottingham Lots. When the Mason-Dixon line was run in 1764, some Friends on the Lots learned they were in Lord Baltimore's territory. East Nottingham, the parent body of Quakers in that area, was in Cecil County, and was set up by the Western Quarter of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Among the meetings were Bush River and Deer Creek.

The Deer Creek Meeting was founded in 1734 and established in 1737. Nathan Rigbie conveyed three and a half acres, part of Phillip's Purchase, to the trustees of the Meeting. On May 25, 1789, Colonel James Rigbie executed a confirmatory deed of the same lot to Joseph Warner, Hugh Ely, Jacob Baldwin, and Isaiah Baldwin, trustees. (Land Records of Baltimore County HWSIA 1/17 and Land Records of Harford County JLG K/347; Preston, 1901, pp. 193-197.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

HA-12
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Deer Creek Friends Meeting house
Harford County Maryland
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

After the American Revolution, proponents of two different emphases were circulating their ideas on Quaker beliefs in the Baltimore area: In 1800 Stephen Gellet advocated the fundamental doctrines of the new evangelism in a talk at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Elias Hicks journeyed through this same area between 1797 and 1829. He advocated Christian rationalism combined with the Quietist emphasis on the Inner Light. Hicks could not admit that all parts of the Bible were divinely inspired. He insisted that people could not know the Holy Scriptures unless they first recognized the spirit of God within themselves. A separation occurred in the faith in 1828 through the influence of these visitors from England. More than four-fifths of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting sided with Hicksite philosophy, including the Deer Creek Meeting.

In 1853 the Yearly Meeting at Lombard Street asked each meeting to list the number of children and their schooling. Deer Creek had 103 children, but had no school under the care of the Meeting. They indicated, however, that several public schools were taught by Friends.

In 1876 the Hicksite Yearly Meeting Committee was reorganized. Friends were urged to reopen closed schools. A census in 1876 showed that Deer Creek Meeting had thirty-eight children. Thirty attended school, seven under Friend teachers.

Susannah J. Jewett, who served as Clerk of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in 1808 and from 1813 through 1820, preached in the Deer Creek Friends Meeting house. Her son, Hugh J. Jewett, born July 1, 1817, was a lawyer who spent the greater part of his life near Zanesville, Ohio. He served in the legislature of Ohio and in the U. S. House of Representatives. In 1884 he returned to Harford County, and in 1888 he "restored" the Deer Creek Friends Meeting house. The Victorian details of the building a the result of his work.

Membership statistics for the Deer Creek Meeting, obtained from Forbush's History (p. 115), show a decline after the Civil War:

<u>Just before the Civil War</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>
228	196	180	146	96	99	80

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Conowingo Dam

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 396580 4388960

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Reference Harford County Deed JLG #K/347

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	ODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, National Register Coordinator/
Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/
Historic District Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle/
45 South Main Street

9/78 / 9/76

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis/Bel Air

(301) 269-2438

STATE

Maryland 21401/21041

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature] 2-15-80

TITLE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

HA-12

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DATE ENTERED

Deer Creek Friends Meeting House
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

3

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Forbush, Bliss. A History of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends. Sandy Spring, Maryland: Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1972

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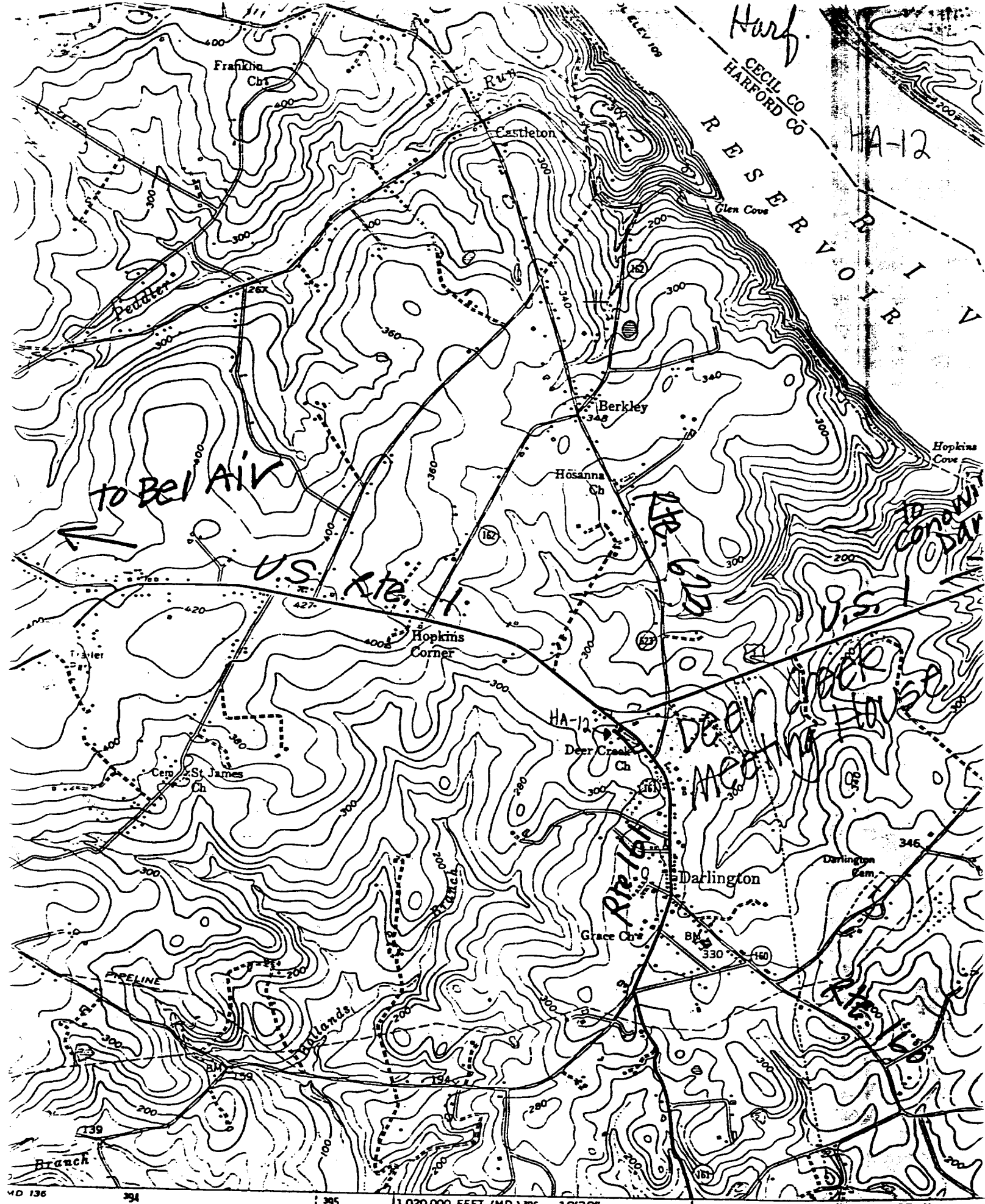
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The Aegis, 8/19/76, p. B1.



published by the Geological Survey
SC&GS

Conowingo Dam Quad HA-12

ABERDEEN 9.4 MI
SCALE 1:24,000

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA - 12

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Deer Creek Friends Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

Deer Creek Friends Meeting House**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

one quarter mile south of US 1 in Darlington

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

COUNTY

MarylandHarford**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Members of the Deer Creek Monthly Meeting

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-12

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	small addition	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Deer Creek Friends Meeting House is a simple rectangular structure of randomly laid field stone, with a slightly projecting stone base or water table on the two long sides. The building faces south and is six bays by 3. The north side has four, non-symmetrical, small windows set high on the wall with granite lintels which are flush with the bottom of the cornice. The south facade has the two entrance doors characteristic of Quaker Meeting houses, each flanked by a window. These windows are of longer dimensions than those on the north side, and these form a relatively symmetrical facade. The double hung doors are wood with two moulded panels on each. Door steps, lintels, and window lintels are made of granite. On the east gable end there is a central door, similar to those on the south and flanked by windows identical to those on the south facade. There are two square attic windows at this end plus two stones over the door inscribed: "Founded, 1737 Rebuilt 1784" and "Restored by Hugh J. Jewett, 1888."

All windows have panelled shutters. There are two corbelled Brick chimneys, one rising from each end of the south slope of the slate roof.

A recent wooden addition (post 1963) with a porch is attached unobtrusively onto the west side. There is a burial ground to the west and north of the meeting house.

A meeting house shed to the south west of the meeting house, of hand-hewn walnut timbers, is thought by some members of the meeting to predate the present stone building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present building was built in 1784 to replace an earlier meeting house which had burned that year (this building had replaced a meeting established in 1737). The building is a good example of Quaker architecture of Pennsylvania and northeastern Maryland of the Revolutionary War period. Despite restoration of 1868, this early structure is basically unchanged (cornice, shutters, and perhaps chimneys are more recent than the actual building but are probably replacements rather than new additions).

The Deer Creek Meeting, founded in 1734 and established in 1737, received the property on which the present building stands, from Nathan Rigbie. On September 29, 1737, Rigbie conveyed 3 1/2 acres, part of Phillip's Purchase, to the trustees of the Quaker Meeting House and on May 25, 1789, Col. James Rigbie executed a confirmatory deed of the same lot to Joseph Warner, Hugh Ely, Jacob Baldwin and Isaiah Baldwin, trustees. These records are found in the land records of Baltimore County (Liber H.W.S.I.A. 1, folio 17) and in Harford County land records (JLG K, folio 347). (Preston, 1901, pp.193 - 197).

The history of the establishment of the Society of Friends in Harford County is closely related to the history of the establishment of the Society of Friends in Maryland and in the United States. Religious toleration was an established fact long before the first Quaker visitor, Elizabeth Harris of London, came to Maryland in 1655. The Maryland Assembly passed the Act of Toleration in 1649, putting into law what had been practiced in Maryland since its formation. Elsewhere on the Eastern seaboard, as in most of Europe, intolerance was the rule because the union of church and state was inextricable. (Forbush, 1972, p. 4).

The Quakers that were ordered to leave Virginia in 1660, petitioned Lord Baltimore for permission to settle in Maryland. He set aside 50 acres of land for each of these settlers.

The heaviest persecution of Friends in Maryland came during the Puritan rule of the province. In 1650, the Governor and Council issued an order that Quakers "be apprehended and whipped from Constable to Constable until they shall be sent out of the Province." (Forbush, p.4). The government reacted against them because they refused to take the oath of loyalty, pay tithes or assessments for the support of the established church, refused to pay their debts in court, would not call upon clergymen for services, and refused to assist the militia.

During the eighteenth century Anglicanism, Puritanism, Catholicism and many minor sects competed for men's minds in England. Most of them insisted on religious conformity and persecuted anyone who disagreed. Friends in Maryland, however, suffered comparatively little. They preached their faith, and made converts among Puritans and reached those who had drifted away from religious fellowships due to various reasons.

Problems within the Society of Friends resulted due to lack of authority. Many small sects developed with varied emphases on doctrines. It became evident that some system of centralized control was necessary. George Fox, who began the Society of Friends in England in 1652, had not planned to found a sect but was forced to do so. Quakerism developed

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forbush, Bliss; A History of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, 1972, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, Sandy Spring, Maryland.
Harford County Directory, 1953. pp. 316, 317.
Preston, Walter W.; History of Harford County, 1901, Press of the Sun Book Office. pp. 193-197.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

9/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
DEER CREEK FRIENDS MEETING
PAGE 2

as a "type of social religion in which the claim of a Divine Light, lighting the individual soul from within, was united with a thoroughly ordered and practical group life unique in the history of Christianity." (Forbush, pp. 9-11). Meetings for business were established in 1656. These meetings, separate ones for men and women, discussed the care of the sick and the poor, widows, orphans, and unemployed; they settled disputes, and kept records of births, marriages, and deaths.

In 1701, William Penn, in order to secure his boundaries against the claims of Lord Baltimore, opened a section of his province "far back in the wilderness" to Friends. The area was called the Nottingham Lots. When the Mason-Dixon Line was run in 1764, some friends on the Nottingham Lots learned they were in Lord Baltimore's territory. West Nottingham, the parent body of Quakers in that area, was in Cecil County and was set up by the Western Quarter of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Among their meetings were Bush River and Deer Creek. Membership statistics for the Deer Creek Meeting, obtained from Forbush's History (pp.115), shows a decline after the Civil War that appears now to leveling off.

<u>Just Before Civil War</u>	<u>1880</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>
228	196	180	146	96	99	80

The years of greatest persecution, 1659 - 1670, were the years in which the Quakers grew most rapidly.

The Bush River Meeting was one of the first religious meetings of this denomination in Harford County. Deer Creek, a Hicksite meeting, seems to have been next. After the American Revolution and the dethroning of the Episcopal Church as religious "King of the Mountain", various sects and religions busied themselves with the establishment of their churches in Baltimore. At this time, proponents of two different emphases were circulating their ideas on Quaker beliefs in the Baltimore area: In 1800, Stephen Gallet advocated the Fundamental doctrines of the new Evangelicalism in a talk at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Elias Hicks journeyed through this same area between 1797 and 1829. He advocated Christian rationalism combined with the Quietist emphasis on the Inner Light. Elias Hicks could not admit that all parts of the Bible were divinely inspired. He insisted that people could not know the holy scriptures unless they first recognised the spirit of God in themselves. Thus, a separation occurred in 1828 through the influence of visitors from England. More than four-fifths of the Baltimore Meeting sided with the Hicksite philosophy. (Forbush, pp. 64,65).

Bliss Forbush states that "a weakness of the Hicksites was their heterogeneous nature. Many members had no settled convictions concerning Quakerism. Most were birthright members, and, out of habit, conformed to the customs and traditions of the Quietist period. They were united in desiring to maintain these customs, recoiled from what seemed to them to be the intolerance of all orthodoxy and held to the doctrine of the Inner Light. They more slowly moved away from many Quietist ways, enlarged their previous religious and philanthropic activities, but being less aggressive, did not grow in numbers until the modern times (p.69)."

With their emphasis on the Inner Light, the Hicksites delayed founding a Bible study group until after the Civil War period. The Hicksites were in a position to attract individuals who did not find the fundamentalist view to be congenial.

In 1853, the Yearly Meeting at Lombard Street asked each Meeting to list the number of children and their schooling. Deer Creek had 103 children but had no school under the care of that Meeting. They indicated, however, that several public schools were taught by friends.

In 1876, the Hicksite Yearly Meeting Committee was reorganized. Friends were urged to reopen closed schools. A census in 1876 showed the Deer Creek Meeting had 38 children. 30 attended school, 7 under Friend teachers.

Susannah J. Jewett, who served as Clerk of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Women Friends in 1808, and from 1813 through 1820, preached in the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House. Her son, Hugh J. Jewett, born July 1, 1817, was a lawyer who spent the greater part of his life near Zanesville, Ohio. He served in the legislature of Ohio and in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1884, he returned to Harford County, and in 1888, he restored the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House.

HA - 12

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUED

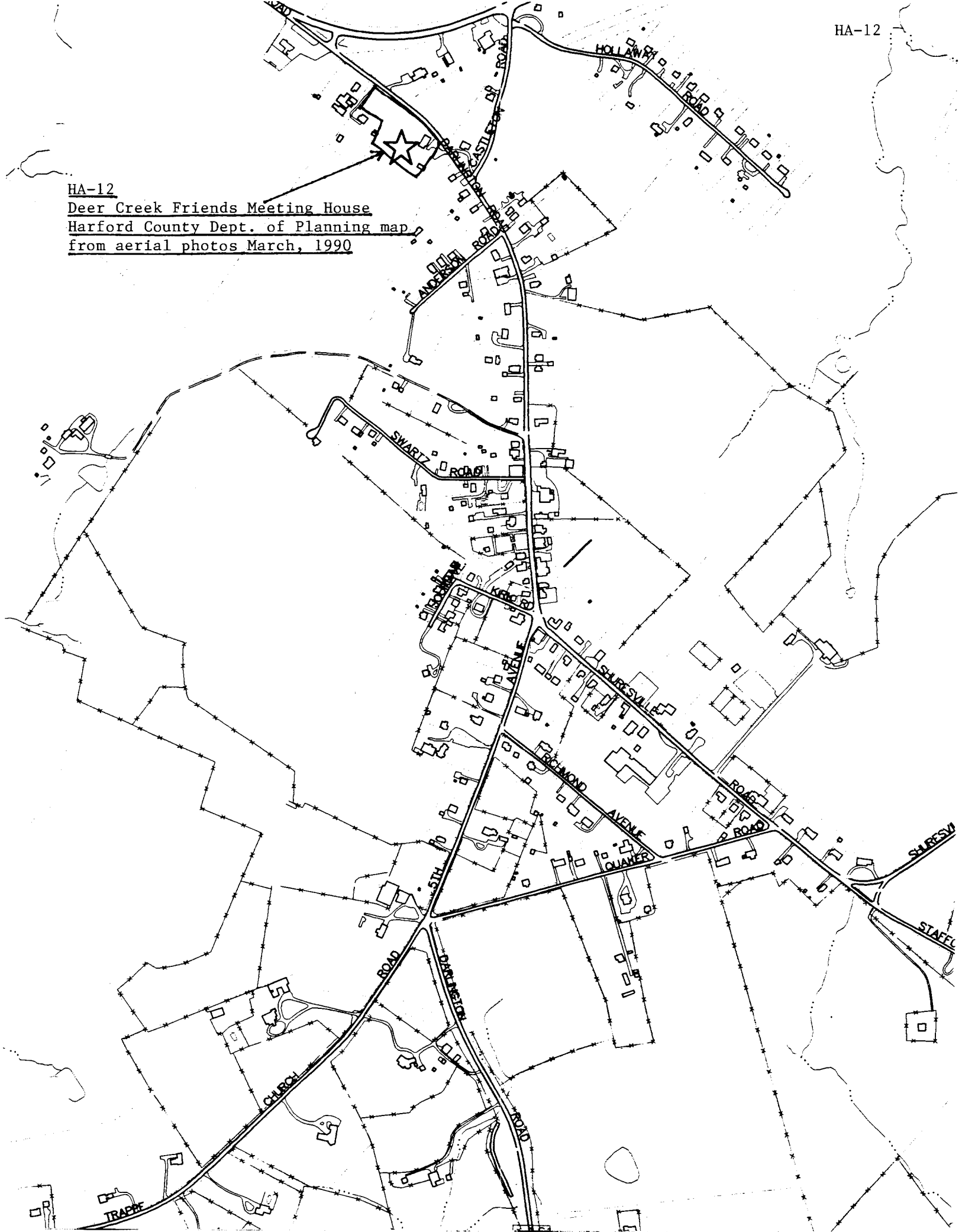
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HA-12

Deer Creek Friends Meeting House
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos March, 1990





Deer Creek Friends Meeting HA-12
Darlington, MD
Susan M. Deeney 9/1/76
South